

Settlement Recalled

Centennial Planned In Wasatch County

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The beautiful green Provo Canyon was an entirely different scene 100 years ago this spring. Instead of green grass abounding everywhere, snow slides blocked the passage.

This was the situation facing 10 men who left Provo a hundred years ago Thursday with ox teams and wagons, for the purpose of coming into what is now Heber Valley to try their luck at raising crops.

Snowslides were so bad that in several places they were required to uncouple the wagons and take them over the slides in separate pieces. Three days were required to make the trip, a drive today that takes about 45 minutes.

A special centennial celebration is planned in conjunction with the Wasatch County Fair this year, to honor the entrance of the pioneers into the valley.

To bring out the true spirit of the occasion, residents of the county will don pioneer garb, ride in covered wagons, exhibit old farm implements and pioneer relics. All

features of the fair will be built around the theme of "Century years."

The county fair is headed by Arvil McAfee and has been set for Aug. 6, 7 and 8.

Descendants Still Here

Many descendants of the first 10 men still live in the county keeping the family names alive. These men were: Thomas Rasband, John Crook, Charles Carroll, John Carlile, John Jordan, Henry Chatwin, Jesse Bond, James Carlile, William Giles Jr., George Carlile and a man named Carpenter.

Upon entering the valley they found four men busy plowing with oxen. These men had arrived several days earlier. They were James Davis, Robert Broadhead, Robert Parker and William Cummings.

The men coming from Provo camped a mile north of where the city of Heber now stands. Since most of these men were from England they called it London. A spring at the site retains the name.

Covered With Brush

The valley lay nestled beneath towering Mt. Timpanogos. Most of it was covered with sage brush. The men chose their first campsite where they found some shrub grass.

Log cabins were built close together in a fort shape for protection from Indian attack. These houses were nearly all built from green cottonwood logs cut on the river bottom.

The first white child born in the valley was Timpanogos Davidson, daughter of Willis and Ellen Davidson. The first child born in the fort was Sarah Crook, daughter of John and Mary Giles Crook.

By the spring of 1860 there were about 200 people in the valley. William Wall was appointed presiding elder.

Heber City was named in honor of Heber C. Kimball, who at that time was first counselor to President Brigham Young.



PIONEER HEBER HOME—This home was typical of several built in Heber Valley shortly after the first 10 men arrived 100 years ago. Builder is unknown but it was childhood home of Jane Bell Thacker, present resident of the valley.

